

NEWS

From the Office of

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Ranchero Road Interchange Moves Forward

HESPERIA – The proposed Ranchero Road Interchange at Interstate 15 took another step forward today when the Mountain/Desert Committee of the county's transportation authority recommended awarding a contract for construction management services.

"The Ranchero Road Interchange will provide another east-west corridor in the Victor Valley, improving mobility for not only Hesperia residents, but for all motorists who traverse the High Desert," said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, who is a board member and immediate past president of San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG).

The Mountain/Desert Committee of SANBAG recommended awarding the \$7 million contract to MNS Engineering, Inc. of Corona. The full SANBAG board is expected to give final approval to the contract award at its regular meeting May 2.

The firm will oversee the construction contractors who will build the approximately \$52 million project, and will ensure the project is built to its plans and specifications. MNS will do the surveying, materials testing, inspections and public outreach.

The Ranchero Road Undercrossing, which will carry the road beneath the railroad tracks east of I-15, is under construction by the City of Hesperia and due to be complete in the summer of 2013. The stretch between the undercrossing and the interchange is scheduled to be widened by the City and the County, creating a new and complete east-west corridor.

The interchange project is scheduled to be under construction later this year, with completion expected in mid 2014. It is being funded by a combination of local, state and federal funds. Because the project is nearly ready for construction, it may be eligible for up to \$21 million available from savings on other projects statewide which were funded through Proposition 1B, the \$20 billion transportation bond approved in 2006. The California Transportation Commission is expected to vote on whether to provide the funding in May.